

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 252, AUGUST 2, 6

Control: 1679	DATE: AUGUST 2, 1961
REVIEWED BY: <i>Houston</i>	DATE: 3:36 PM 8/2/61
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ACTION DEPARTMENT 252, INFORMATION BERLIN, LONDON 52, MOSCOW 36, PARIS 63.

PARIS FOR KOHLER.

SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S TELEVISION COMMENTS ON BERLIN HAVE AROUSED SOMEWHAT BELATED YET NONETHELESS UNUSUALLY CRITICAL PRESS AND OTHER COMMENT IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SCATHING IN THEIR REJECTION OF HIS PROPOSAL THAT CONCESSION SHOULD BE MADE TO RUSSIANS ON REFUGEE PROBLEM. ADDED TO CONSTERNATION AND CHAGRIN WITH WHICH FULBRIGHT'S REMARKS WERE RECEIVED WAS CERTAIN AMOUNT OF UNEASINESS STEMMING FROM FULBRIGHT'S PROMINENT POSITION AND HIS ASSUMED INFLUENCE UPON AMERICAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES. ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES THOUGHT THAT THIS REPRESENTED GREATEST MISTAKE YET MADE BY WESTERN LEADER DURING CURRENT CRISIS OVER BERLIN.

AS FOR OTHER SUGGESTIONS MADE BY FULBRIGHT, E.G. DISARMAMENT, NO NUCLEAR ARMS FOR BUNDESWEHR, LARGE SCALE REFERENCE, FREE-CITY STATUS FOR BERLIN, THERE WAS MUCH LESS COMMENT. THOUGH ALL THESE PROPOSALS ARE PRESUMABLY ANATHEMA TO GERMAN GOVERNMENT. OTHER POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, NENDE AND BRANDT, CONFINED THEMSELVES TO SHARP REJECTIONS OF ANY MEASURE WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT REFUGEE FLOW OR FREE MOVEMENT BETWEEN DIVISIONS OF GERMANY.

AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.

DOWLING

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